

Policy Name:	Homework
Date Adopted:	February 2016
Review Date:	February 2017
Referred Documents:	DET Homework Guideline http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/Pages/guidelines.aspx DET Homework Expectations http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/Pages/expectations.aspx

RATIONALE:

Homework is purposeful learning, which is set by the teacher, that occurs outside of the classroom. It is an opportunity for you to participate in your child's education. Homework complements and reinforces classroom learning and fosters lifelong study habits. Students benefit by practising skills learnt in the classroom and it provides opportunities for students to be responsible for their own learning.

GOAL:

To ensure that homework serves the diverse needs of students, whilst ensuring that the individual educational needs of these students are met.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- The organisation of homework should be flexible and enable students to participate in activities outside the school environment.
- Children will be given the opportunity to ask questions to clarify their understandings of the task and its relevance to their current learning.
- Homework expectations will be shared at the start of each year.
- Parents will be informed of student homework habits in the June and December reports.
- Homework tasks will be set at varied/ student levels of understanding and capabilities.
- Students who complete tasks shall receive positive reinforcement and an opportunity to win a prize at the end of each term (if all of the term's homework is completed).
- Opportunities for support will be set up as required.
- When an established pattern of non-returning of homework is identified the teacher and parents will explore the reasons and follow up where appropriate.
- Students who do not read on a nightly basis will be able or required to catch up with their reading during eating time.
- Reading will be a major component of the homework for all year levels.
- Parents may discuss homework expectations when students are going on a personal holiday, however it is not the teacher's responsibility to prepare such homework.
- Students may use digital tools such as laptops, video cameras, iPads etc. for completing homework.

POLICY EVALUATION:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review cycle

Homework should be:

- Appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- Purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- Interesting, challenging and when appropriate open-ended
- Assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided
- Balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities.

Grade	Weekly Homework Task
Prep	Reading 10-15 minutes per night Word list (also includes alphabet and number games)
Grade 1	Reading 10-20 minutes per night Spelling
Grade 2	Reading 15-20 minutes per night Spelling
Grade 3	Reading 15-20 minutes per night Spelling
Grade 4	Reading 15-20 minutes per night Spelling
Grade 5	Reading 20-30 minutes per night Multiple choice grid fortnightly tasks (provided at the start of each term)
Grade 6	Reading 20-30 minutes per night Multiple choice grid fortnightly tasks (provided at the start of each term)

DIARIES AND READING JOURNALS:

Parents are expected to sign the diary or reading journal on a nightly basis. This form of communication will be monitored by the classroom teacher.

PARENTS AND CARERS CAN HELP STUDENTS WITH THEIR HOMEWORK BY:

- Reading texts set by teacher, which may consist of reading to, reading with, or reading by parents/carers or older siblings.
- Encouraging a regular daily session to examine and complete homework
- Discussing key questions or suggesting resources to help with homework
- Helping to balance the time spent between homework and recreational activities
- Asking how homework and class work is progressing, and acknowledging success
- Attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved in
- Talking to teachers about any homework problems
- Checking if homework has been set
- Students keep a homework diary